

Message Text

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62

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 EB-11 DOTE-00 COME-00 FMC-04

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 DODE-00 DRC-01

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R 131816Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4329

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JOINT STATE/AID

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S REQUEST FOR EXPERTS FOR PORT AND RR SURVEY

1. DURING CALL BY AMBASSADOR ON PRESIDENT LAUGERUD SEPTEMBER 10, PRESIDENT EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN OVER THE PORT OF PUERTO BARRIOS AND THE OPERATION OF THE STATE-OWNED RAILROAD, FEGUA.
2. HE SAID HE HAD APPOINTED A CAPABLE, HONEST MAN TO ADMINISTER THE PORT BUT MATTERS WERE NOT IMPROVING - SHIPS STILL WAIT UP TO 15 DAYS TO DISCHARGE CARGOES, PORT HANDLING FACILITIES ARE IN A STATE OF CONFUSION AND DIS-ORGANIZATION, AND THERE ARE PROBLEMS WITH WAREHOUSING AND IN-LAND TRANSPORTATION.
3. IN REGARD TO FEGUA, HE CITED RECENT EFFORTS TO IMPROVE ITS OPERATION INCLUDING THE GOVERNMENT MAKING AVAILABLE TWO MILLION QUETZALES TO IMPROVE ITS EQUIPMENT AND OPERATIONS BUT CONCLUDED THAT IT IS STILL TOTALLY UNSATISFACTORY.
4. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT LAUGERUD, WHO HAS NOW BEEN IN OFFICE FOR TWO AND A HALF MONTHS, HAS MADE A SPECIFIC REQUEST TO THE USG. HE OBVIOUSLY

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TAKES A KEEN PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE MATTER.

AMBASSADOR THINKS IT IMPORTANT WE RESPOND POSITIVELY,
CONCRETELY AND QUICKLY, AS IT WILL HELP TO SET THE
TONE FOR OUR RELATIONS WITH HIM OVER THE COURSE OF
THE NEXT FOUR YEARS. WE WILL BE HAVING UNAVOIDABLE
DIFFICULTIES WITH GOG IN OTHER AREAS, NOTABLY ON FLOMERCA
AND PANAM, AND THIS IS A CHANCE FOR US TO RESPOND
CONSTRUCTIVELY IN A WAY WHICH COULD PROVIDE DIVIDENDS
IN THE FUTURE. THEREFORE, WOULD APPRECIATE ADVICE ASAP
AS TO HOW AND FROM WHAT SOURCES THIS ASSISTANCE COULD
BE PROVIDED.

DECONTROL 9/12/76.
MELOY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, RAILROADS, PORT FACILITIES, CONSULTANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974GUATEM05016
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740257-0377
From: GUATEMALA JOINT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740949/aaaabozeu.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <03 MAR 2003 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT'S REQUEST FOR EXPERTS FOR PORT AND RR SURVEY
TAGS: ETRN, GT, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005